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Czech Republic

Livestock and Products

Czech Authorities Confirm 13th BSE Case 2004

Approved by:

Sarah Hanson
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Petra Choteborska

Report Highlights:

On July 29, 2004, the State Veterinary Administration (SVA) confirmed the thirteenth case of BSE in the Czech Republic. The concerned animal was a 59-month old cow, born on August 3, 1999 on a farm in Podhorni Ujezd, in the district of Jicin. In the next months, 143 cows of cohort will be destroyed and tested.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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On July 29, 2004, the State Veterinary Administration (SVA) confirmed the thirteenth case of BSE in the Czech Republic. The concerned animal was a 59-month old cow, born on August 3, 1999 on a farm in Podhorni Ujezd, in the district of Jicin. The cow was slaughtered on July 21st, 2004 in an emergency. In the next months, 143 cows of cohort will have to be destroyed and tested.

Since February 2001, over 600,000 cows have been tested for BSE and 1,653 heads of cohort have been destroyed and tested (excluding the last cohort counts). The source of disease is unknown, SVA suspects randomly contaminated feeds.

BSE cases since regular testing started in February 2001:

2004 5 cases (January, April, May, June, July)
2003 4 cases (May, two in October, November)
2002 2 cases (both October)
2001 2 cases (June, September)

BSE measures in the Czech Republic:

Since 1962 the Czech Republic had very strict rules for production of meat bone meal even though BSE was unknown. As of 1991 meat bone meal for forbidden for use in feeds for cattle. In September 1996 Central Epidemiology Commission of the Czech Republic adopted EU's regulation 94/449/EC on condition for processing meat bone meal (temperature over 133 degrees Celsia, 20 minute time, pressure 3 bars, minimal size of pieces 50 mm).

At the end of 2000, the EU started regular testing for BSE using quick immunology tests. The Czech Republic started testing at the end of 2000 using Western blot method. As of February 1, 2001, the State Veterinary Institutes in Praha and Jihlava tests all animals older than 30 months. In July 2001, the age limit was decreased to 24 months. As of October 2001, the State Veterinary Institute in Olomouc started testing for BSE using the Enfer test. Currently, three veterinary institutes test BSE with Western blot and Enfer tests. Immunohistochemical test serves as the confirmation method.

In November 2003, meat bone meal was prohibited from use in any kind of feed mixture including feeds for swine and poultry.

The system of BSE testing and connected measures provide a good level of assurance to consumers that they are adequately protected against purchasing meat from a BSE infected animal. Consumer trust in the veterinary authority is high and demand for beef has not dropped.

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